

EC14.5.1

MM23.15.1

MM23.16.1



July 24, 2020

Mayor John Tory
City Hall, 100 Queen St. W., 2nd Floor
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: MM23.15 Request to expedite the polling period for Waterfront BIA expansion
and support for related requests to expedite EC14.5 Willowdale BIA formation and
MM23.16 Beach Village BIA expansion

Mayor Tory and Councillors,

Thank you for your support of the City of Toronto's 83 Business Improvement Areas this year as we get through the public health crisis together. BIAs have taken on a number of new roles we didn't expect at the beginning of the year and in many ways we have improved our capabilities - expanded advocacy on behalf of our businesses at all levels of government, advisory and coordination roles alongside City staff for patios and curb use, online promotion of our businesses and neighbourhoods, and new programs to help our businesses get online themselves.

As our BIA's mailed ballot vote has been delayed by the pandemic, we greatly appreciate the motion to expedite the polling period. This will assist us with planning and budgeting certainty as we prepare to best represent our business community into 2021. We will be ready to ensure all eligible voting properties and businesses are aware of the expedited polling period.

We are also very supportive of related motions EC14.5 and MM23.16 supporting the creation of a Willowdale BIA and the expansion of the Beach Village BIA. The interest in expansion and creation of BIAs across the City is very encouraging. BIAs across the City have a hard-working, dedicated and creative group of volunteers and staff members that work together as a community to share and develop new ideas and resources for our businesses. We look forward to working with this expanded BIA community and City's BIA Office in years to come.

Thank you,

Tim Kocur
The Waterfront BIA,
Executive Director

cc: Councillor Joe Cressy, Ward 10 Spadina-Fort York
Councillor Paula Fletcher, Ward 14 Toronto-Danforth
Councillor John Filion, Ward 18 Willowdale
Councillor Brad Bradford, Ward 19 Beaches-East York
Anna Sebert, Executive Director, Beach Village BIA